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# GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION

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**Deadline extended for  
one week.**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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This pamphlet provides information regarding a new state law on grace period registration and voting, plus information on early voting and no-excuse absentee voting.

## **WHAT IS GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION?**

Although the traditional voter registration period closes 28 days prior to the election, Illinois residents may register in-person at the office of their election authority. The grace period for registration is the 27th to the 7th day prior to the election.

## **WHEN CAN PEOPLE REGISTER TO VOTE?**

In 2010, the traditional deadline for registering is January 5 for the primary election and October 5 for the general election.

The grace period for registering for the primary is January 6 to January 26, and the grace period for registering for the general election is October 6 to October 26, 2010.

## **WHEN IS THE ELECTION?**

The Illinois primary is February 2, 2010, (the first primary in the nation) and the general election is November 2, 2010.

## **WHERE CAN PEOPLE REGISTER DURING THE GRACE PERIOD?**

During the grace period, people can register only at the office of the election authority or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority.

## **CAN I CHANGE MY REGISTRATION ADDRESS DURING GRACE PERIOD?**

Yes. A registered voter may submit a change of address form, in person in the office of the election authority or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority.

## **WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW TO REGISTER?**

The requirements are: U.S. citizenship; at least 18 years of age by Election Day; and resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

Identification is required.

## **WHERE CAN I CHECK TO SEE IF I AM REGISTERED?**

Illinois residents can check with their election authority or go online at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov). Go to “Voting and Elections” and then, click “Am I Registered” at the top of the page. Follow the prompts.

## **CAN PEOPLE WHO REGISTER DURING THIS PERIOD VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?**

No. They must vote in the office of the election authority or vote absentee by mail.

People who register during the grace period do not go to their polling place on Election Day, nor are they allowed to vote at Early Voting Centers.

## **IS GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION NEW?**

No, but the deadline is new. A new state law, Public Act 96-0441, extends the deadline one week, until the 7th day before the election. The grace period was first established for the 2006 election. In the 2008 general election, 32,000 people registered during the grace period.

## **WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?**

Registered voters may cast a ballot prior to Election Day without having to provide a reason for wanting to vote early. This ballot is cast by personal appearance at the office of the election authority or at an Early Voting Center.

## **HOW EARLY CAN PEOPLE VOTE?**

Registered voters can vote in person during the 22nd day through the 5th day preceding an election. So, in 2010 the early voting period for the primary will be from January 11 to January 28 and for the general election will be from October 14 to October 28.

## **CAN I VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL WITHOUT GIVING AN EXCUSE?**

Yes. A new state law, Public Act 96-0553, allows a registered voter to request and vote an absentee ballot without specifying a reason for being absent from the polling place on Election Day.

Persons who desire an absentee ballot should contact their election authority for an application. Registered voters can make application by mail or in person 40 days before an election.





## THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State.

The State Board works closely with election authorities in all regions of the State.

Elections are administered locally by the State's 110 election authorities. These are the county clerks in 101 counties, one county election commission and eight municipal election commissions.

As part of their many responsibilities, election authorities conduct local voter registration programs, train election judges, find polling places, prepare ballots, oversee Election Day activities and supervise the vote count at the local level.

For more information on early voting, absentee voting, grace period registration or other election laws and procedures, contact your election authority or visit the Board's website: [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)

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